

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 6, 7 and 14-20 were rejected under § 112, first paragraph, as not being enabling. On March 1, 2006 this rejection was discussed in a teleconference with the Examiner. During this discussion, the Examiner indicated that this rejection would be cured by submitting a summary of the teleconference in this Amendment. In particular, Applicants noted that Figure 1 depicts a tool magazine disposed on a support surface, which provides a physical structure that counteracts rotational forces in at least one embodiment of the present invention. For example, the tool magazine may be mounted to the support surface in any suitable manner (such as with a fastener, welding, adhesive, etc.) or by providing the tool holder with sufficient mass to resist rotation as would be known by one of ordinary skill in the art. As such, Applicants believe that this rejection has been overcome.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 12 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,282,638 issued to Harper (hereinafter “Harper ‘638”). Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 8 to more distinctly claim the present invention. Amended claims 1 and 8 recite that the second adapter is provided as a unitary component. Harper ‘638 does not recite a second adapter that is provided as a unitary component. Instead, Harper ‘638 recites a multi-piece assembly 10 that includes a cylindrical body 26 that receives a gear assembly means 44 and a slidable collar 30 fitted about the cylindrical body 26 that incorporates a push-rod 32 for disengaging a socket when the collar 30 and push-rod are reciprocated (see column 2, lines 50-69 and column 3, lines 1-2 and 42-49). As such, Applicants believe that this rejection has been overcome. Since claims 3, 5, 9 and 12 depend

on claims 1 and 8, Applicants believe that the rejection of these claims is overcome for the same reasons.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

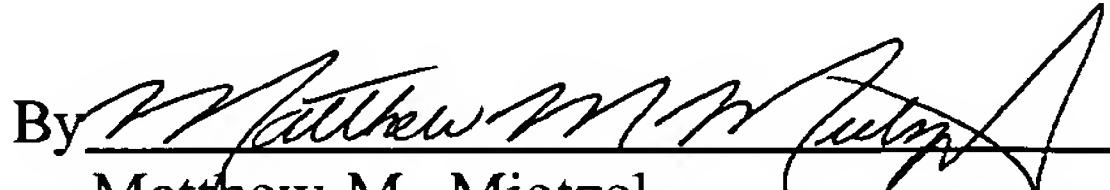
Claims 3, 4 and 10 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harper '638. Claims 3 and 4 depend on claim 1. Claim 10 depends on claim 8. Thus, Applicants believe that the rejection of these claims is overcome for the reasons previously discussed.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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